WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A backup battery charging circuit comprising: a main battery; a regulator circuit for receiving electric power from said main battery so as to supply a charging current to a backup battery; a direct charging circuit for supplying a charging current from said main battery to said backup battery without the intervention of said regulator circuit; and a charging mode determining means for determining an appropriate charging mode from the group consisting of a first charging mode where the charging current is supplied from said regulator circuit to said backup battery and a second charging mode where the charging current is supplied from said main battery to said backup battery without the intervention of said regulator circuit, so as to charge said backup battery.

2. A backup battery charging circuit according to Claim 1, wherein said charging mode determining means selects said first charging mode when the voltage of said backup battery is lower than or equal to the output voltage of said regulator circuit, and selects said second charging mode when the voltage of said backup battery exceeds the output voltage of said regulator circuit.